



United States Department of Agriculture



Green Mountain/Finger Lakes National Forests

Rainbow Family National Gathering

Information Update

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Update 5

Over 1,000 Rainbow Family members are currently occupying areas on Forest Road 10 near Mount Tabor. As of 6/23 there were 205 cars and 15 buses at the gathering site. Some of the buses were relocated on Thursday to a more acceptable parking place in the gathering site.

The Incident Management Team continues to respond to issues and concerns of the impacts to communities.

Local communities and businesses are seeing an increased presence of Rainbow Family members and issues are escalating. Common issues are panhandling for food and money, harassment of local customers at stores and gas stations, requests for use of restroom facilities, and requests for drinking water.

Rainbow family members are expected to provide their own food and water as they travel to the gathering site. Kitchens are opening daily at the site to feed Rainbow Family members. Businesses encountering Rainbow Family members asking for food and water should send them to the gathering site for their meals. Toilet facilities, provided by the Rainbow Family, are also available at the ballfield entrance to Forest Road 10.

By June 23, 2016, a total of 40 warning notices and 32 violation notices were issued for traffic and drug related offences. 31 other incidents received law enforcement response.

All natural resource areas of concern have been reviewed and flagged for avoidance by Rainbow Family members. Some natural resource damage has been observed due to inappropriate parking, heavy foot traffic and the transport of supplies and equipment to camps within the gathering site.

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Rainbow artwork trimming the trees – 2010 gathering.